

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EAIR, UK

SUBJECT: US-UK CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS

FOLLOWING FOR YOUR INFORMATION ARE EXCERPTS OF APRIL 29
INTERVIEW WITH THE PRESIDENT BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
RADIO TELEVISION NEWS DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION. NOTE THAT
INTERVIEW IS IN CONTEXT OF SHARING INFORMATION ON TYPICAL
DAY AND CLIMATE PRIOR TO ECONOMIC SUMMIT.

1. "I HAD A MEETING WITH MY KEY TRANSPORTATION ADVISERS,
INCLUDING SECRETARY BROCK ADAMS AND SPECIAL NEGOTIATOR
ALAN BOYD, AND THEN CALLED THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT
BRITAIN, JIM CALLAGHAN, FOR ABOUT A 20-MINUTE CONVER-
SATION ABOUT TREATY NEGOTIATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL AIR
ROUTES. THIS IS A MATTER OF SOME IMPORTANCE TO OUR
COUNTRIES.

"ON THE 22ND OF JUNE LAST YEAR, THE BRITISH NOTIFIED US
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THE TREATIES WOULD BE TERMINATED; THAT IS, THE ONE-YEAR
ADVANCE NOTICE REQUIREMENT. AND WE HOPE WE CAN GET THESE
NEGOTIATIONS COMPLETED BEFORE THAT DATE; THAT WE
WON'T INTERRUPT ROUTINE TRAVEL BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

"I AND MY VERY GOOD FRIEND, JIM CALLAGHAN, ARE VERY EAGER
TO SEE THIS DONE, BUT THERE ARE SOME VERY DIFFICULT

QUESTIONS TO BE RESOLVED."

2. "WE WILL DISCUSS THE MUTUAL AND BALANCED FORCE REDUCTION TALKS IN GENEVA THAT HAVE BEEN STALEMATED NOW FOR ABOUT THREE YEARS. I THINK WE WILL FORM PERSONAL FRIENDSHIPS AND INTERRELATIONSHIPS THAT WILL STAND US IN GOOD STEAD IN A TIME OF TROUBLE, OF CRISIS.

"IN FACT, I CALLED PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN THIS MORNING-- WE HAVE A PERSONAL AND EASY RELATIONSHIP BECAUSE WE HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO BE TOGETHER FOR A NUMBER OF HOURS WHEN HE VISITED US."

3. "I THINK WE WILL FIND A LOT OF COMMON GROUND THAT WE HAVEN'T YET RECOGNIZED. BUT TENSIONS TEND TO BUILD UP

AMONG NATIONS WHEN THERE IS NOT AN EASY WAY TO COMMUNICATE BETWEEN THE HEADS OF STATE.

"AND I WAS QUITE CONCERNED, AS I SAID EARLIER, ABOUT THE POTENTIAL BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATING NEW AIR RIGHTS. THE BRITISH FEEL THAT WE HAVE TOO MANY PLANES FLYING BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND LONDON WITH TOO MANY EMPTY SEATS, THAT THIS IS WASTEFUL OF ENERGY AND WASTEFUL OF AIRPLANES, THAT IT CREATES EXCESSIVE COMPETITION AND EXCESSIVE COSTS FOR THE FEW PASSENGERS WHO DO FLY ON A HALF-EMPTY PLANE. WE AGREE WITH THAT.

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"THE BRITISH ARE ALSO, THOUGH, QUITE INSISTENT THAT WE CUT DOWN ON THE NUMBER OF ADDITIONAL POINTS THAT WE SERVE BEYOND LONDON. WE FEEL A MUCH MORE DEEP DEDICATION TO THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AND TO COMPETITION THAN MOST OF OUR ALLIES, EVEN A CLOSE A FRIEND AS BRITAIN AND JUST THE FACT THAT JIM CALLAGHAN AND I CAN SIT DOWN AND TALK ABOUT THESE THINGS AND SEE WHAT WE CAN YIELD ON, WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET ANOTHER COUNTRY TELL US WHAT THE CAPACITY OF OUR AIRPLANES OUGHT TO BE.

"BUT I CAN TELL JIM CALLAGHAN THAT I WILL PERSONALLY BE RESPONSIBLE TO HIM; THAT WE CUT DOWN ON THE WASTE OF EMPTY SEATS, BUT THAT WE CANNOT YIELD BEYOND LONDON TO FRANKFURT, TO COPENHAGEN AND TO OTHER POINTS AROUND THE WORLD.

"SO JUST THE FACT THAT WE CAN HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WILL BENEFIT US GREATLY."

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